



Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats

**Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking
Member**

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DEMOCRATS INTRODUCE AMENDMENT ON PORT SECURITY *"Secure Our Ports and Coastlines from Terrorist Attacks"*

April 27, 2005, Washington, DC — In an open markup session today to consider the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for fiscal year 2006, Democrats from the House Committee on Homeland Security will offer legislation to secure America's port security.

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-MS), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity introduced the amendment on port security. Sanchez stated, **"The security of our ports is critical to our nation and our economy. The U.S. Coast Guard has estimated that if terrorists struck one of our ports and it was shut down, the economic damage alone would be \$60 billion. Our economic security is dependent on a secure supply chain and secure ports. We must do all we can to ensure that this vital system is made less vulnerable to terrorist attacks."**

The port security amendment authorizes \$400 million dollars in fiscal year 2006 for port security grants. It also requires the enhancement of container security programs by mandating the Department to develop standards for container security in accordance with the Department's Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations (COAC).

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